



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPSCS Inmates to Plant 2,400 More Trees Statewide for National Arbor Day, Friday, April 25

TOWSON, MD (April 24, 2008)---Call it an encore for Secretary Maynard's Inmate Forest Brigade: tomorrow, to commemorate National Arbor Day, inmates from Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services facilities will plant another 2,400 trees, giving inmates a chance to give back, and giving future generations a chance to live in a greener community.

On April 2, Maryland's official Arbor Day, Secretary Gary Maynard and Division of Correction Commissioner Mike Stouffer led a statewide effort that resulted in nearly 6,000 trees being planted in communities from Cresaptown to Charlotte Hall, Hurlock to Herring Run Park, and Salisbury to south of Hagerstown.

Friday, April 25 is the national celebration of Arbor Day, first observed in Nebraska in 1872. Once again, Secretary Maynard's mission of planting one million trees during his administration will take a giant leap forward. The April 25 tree-planting effort by region is listed below:

JESSUP

Patuxent Institution will plant 100 trees on its "tree farm."
Maryland Correctional Institution for Women will plant 200 trees.
Jessup Correctional Institution will plant 500 trees.

HAGERSTOWN

The Hagerstown complex will plant an additional 500 trees.

CUMBERLAND

Western Correctional Institution will plant 500 more trees.

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LOWER EASTERN SHORE

Eastern Correctional Institution will plant 300 trees.

STATEWIDE

Inmates from the Maryland Correctional Pre-Release System will plant 300 more trees.

DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard has dramatically increased the number of inmates working on community enhancement projects. Still forthcoming: horse farms for retired thoroughbreds, Habitat for Humanity assistance, and many other projects.

In addition, individual facilities have taken the cue and set-up their own projects to help cities and towns in their regions. Among these projects: inmates from the Eastern Pre-Release Unit on the upper Eastern Shore will soon be helping to clear land for a rail-trail in Millington; Maryland Correctional Enterprises continues to help the National Park Service restore the West Woods at Antietam National Battlefield, where inmates have already planted 1,500 trees; and Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit inmates recently helped with a beautification project in Charles County, planting 100 trees in the community of Indian Head.

All of these projects are made possible by the hard work and dedication DPSCS employees, with assistance from many state and local agencies. All across the state, DPSCS facilities and their employees work hard to be good neighbors in their communities.

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